

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 and 10 pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 and 10 are amended.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6-8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Ford Taurus and Mercury Sable Haynes Repair Manual in view of Takayama (USP 6,119,060), and rejects claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Taurus in view of Takayama and further in view of Toshihiro (JP 64-30856). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite that the vehicle body includes a partition wall that separates an engine room and a cabin from each other, and the engine control computer, the relay block and the ABS actuator are located on an engine-room side of the partition wall. The Office Action admits that Taurus does not disclose the engine control computer, the relay block, the junction box and the ABS actuator as being located in a generally centralized region as defined in the claims, but uses Takayama for the supposed teaching of concentrating electrical components along the longitudinal center line and on a dash cross member of a vehicle.

However, in Takayama, the panel body and the processing units are provided on a vehicle cabin side, and not in the engine room as required by claims 1 and 10 of the application. Further, Takayama only discloses that the ECU, ABS control unit and the like are connected to the panel body, and does not refer to the location of the ECU, ABS control unit and the like. In particular, in Takayama, ECU, ABS control unit and the like are not necessarily provided at the substantially center portion, even if the information processing units are provided at a substantially center portion. Thus, even if Taurus and Takayama are combined as suggested in the Office Action, the resulting combination would not result in the recitations of claims 1 and 10 of the present application.

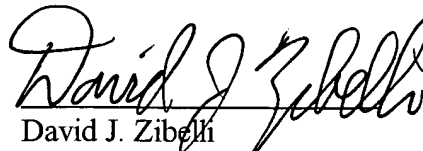
For at least the above reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance are solicited.

The Office is authorized to charge any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 16, 2003

  
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